IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-18, without prejudice.

Please add new claims 19-35 as set forth on the enclosed pages.

REMARKS

The nodes of U.S. Patent No. 6,449,278 to Rose are not routers, but merely perform "conventional signal processing and conventional signaling system number seven signaling" (see Rose, col. 7, lines 22-25). As part of its signal processing functions, the node performs conventional digit analysis and routing functions and thus decides which trunk route is to be used for the next stage of the call.

By contrast, this application is directed to a node operating in a conventional way, i.e., as a conventional telephone exchange, rather than as a router. By "conventional digit analysis", Rose is referring to the detection and interpretation of dialing pulses/tones such as those generated by a conventional telephone apparatus. By "conventional routing", Rose is referring to the selection of an outgoing route as carried out in a conventional telephone exchange. This is far removed from operation of a "router".

The conventional exchange operates in a "connection-oriented" mode, i.e., setting up an end-to-end connection from source to destination for carrying a call. This is clearly set out in column 7 of Rose. This end-to-end path consists, in the embodiment shown in Fig. 4 of Rose, in trunk route "A-X" from originating local exchange A to the respective nodes of the distributed exchange, trunk route "B-Y" from the second nodes of the distributed exchange to terminating local exchange "B" and the connection between the two nodes set up as described at column 7, lines 44-49.

New parent claim 19 is based on claims 1-2 and clarifies that the routers of the present invention use internet protocol (IP). Unlike the connection-oriented paths of Rose, the routers according to the present invention operate on a connection-less system in which each packet of a particular message is individually routed according to the conditions prevailing in the network at the time.

The system of the present invention, as recited in independent claims 19 and 29, is neither disclosed, nor indicated, in Rose and advantageously reduces the complexity of the inter-exchange interconnections leading to a more efficient and more easily configurable network.

The objections to the dependent claims are moot in view of new claims 19 and 29.

Enclosed for the Examiner's approval is a copy of Fig. 1 in which the legend *"Prior Art"* was added.
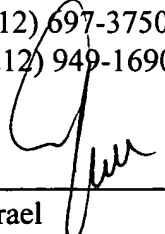
In the specification, the phrase "plesiochronous digital hierarchy" has been added at page 3, "digital junction switching units" has been added at page 5, and "end" has been inserted after "far" at page 14, as suggested by the Examiner.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Alan Israel
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MARKED-UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Page 3, lines 9-12, please amend this paragraph as follows:

-- Turning to Figure 1 a typical, conventional, large telephone network comprises a number of local exchanges L interconnected via trunk exchanges T. Each local exchange L is connected to two (or more) trunk exchanges T, which are fully-meshed. In current networks this fully-meshed trunk interconnect typically uses mainly [PDH] plesiochronous digital hierarchy (PDH) transmission. --

Pages 5-6, please amend the paragraph bridging these two pages as follows:

-- The existing trunk exchanges, could still be used, e.g., as regional trunk exchanges digital junction switching units (DJSUs), allowing reduction or elimination of sideways routes between local exchanges. If at any time these regional trunk exchanges are overloaded, the traffic can be handled in the main trunk (router) network. --

Page 14, please amend the paragraph at lines 15-16 as follows:

-- 1. If the far end is not happy, it should force clear all calls and hold that route busy (but still send its own check cells);